The Golden Anniversary

of

The Bethany Presbyterian Church

1894 = = = = 1944

February 9 to February 13, 1944

Boone St. at Fry St.

Fort Wayne, Indiana

VICTORIA BOOTH DEMAREST

GUEST SPEAKER

YOU

Are Most Cordially Invited to Attend

The Fiftieth Anniversary of

BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Boone and Fry Streets

February 9th - 15th, 1944

February 9th, 8:00 P.M.—The Opening Service.

February 10th, 6:00 P.M.—Young People's Dinner.
8:00 P.M.—The Evening Service with Youth participating.

February 11th, 8:00 P.M.—Home Coming Night.

February 12th, 8:00 P.M.—Lecture "Love and Marriage".
Girls over 14 and women only.

February 13th, 9:30 A.M.—The Church School.
10:45 A.M.—The Hour of Divine Worship.
(The Burning of the Mortgage.)
4:30 P.M.—The Hour of Vespers.
5:30 P.M.—A Tea and Reception.

February 14th, 8:00 P.M.—Community and Presbytery Night.

February 15th, 6:30 P.M.—The Anniversary Dinner.
8:00 P.M.—The Service of Dedication.
The Reception of New Members.
The Celebration of the Lord's Supper.

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REV. ROBERT FAUST SHEAFFER

Associate Pastor of Bethany 1936-1938

Pastor of Bethany Since 1938

THE CHURCH STAFF

Robert Faust Sheaffer, B.D., Pastor, 1705 Illinois Street, Anthony 2723
Mrs. Mabel Walker Church Secretary,
1715 Richardson Street, Eastbrook 2673
Mrs. Ralph Bromelmeier, Church Organist, 617 Fry Street, Anthony 85164
William Miller, Director of Music, 2652 N. Sherman Blvd., Anthony 50702
(On leave of absence while serving in the army.)
Miss Louelle Feiertag, Director of Music, Ad Interim,
540 Riedel Street, Anthony 95983
Russell G. Ayers, Church Treasurer, 2515 Terrace Road, Eastbrook 2211
Ernest Keppeler, Financial Secretary, 830 Archer Ave., Anthony 49962
J. C. Igney, Sexton, 720 Mechanic Street, Anthony 58092

THE CHURCH SCHOOL

Superintendent—Vane Boone, 1133 Sinclair Street, Anthony 85691
Assistant Superintendent—Arthur E. Strang, 1616 Spring Street,
Anthony 50104
Secretary—Mrs. Clyde Brown, Jr., 1115 Spring Street, Anthony 26663
Treasurer—Clarence Wiebke, Lima Road, Anthony 57251

THE WOMAN'S ASSOCIATION

President—Mrs. Ernest Keppeler, 830 Archer Ave., Anthony 49962
First Vice-President—Mrs. Floyd Tew, 1020 West Main Street,
Anthony 95505
Second Vice-President—Mrs. Walter Fagg, 628 Cherry Street,
Anthony 85522
Treasurer—Mrs. Frank Cooper, 1805 Emerson Drive, Anthony 75705
Recording Secretary—Mrs. Carl Crapser, 1421 West Fourth Street,
Anthony 85633
Corresponding Secretary—Mrs. Russell Frey, 4029 Tacoma Avenue,
Harrison 24863

THE SESSION

Robert Faust Sheaffer, Moderator

Oscar Allen	Otto Fultz	John Muller
Russell G. Ayers	Avery Glass	Walter Ramp
J. O. Brown	John Lewis	John Sowers
Earl Clifton	Mrs. Jess Lipkey	Mrs. Lonnie Stouffer
Glen Ellenwood	S. C. Moorhead, Clerk	Paul Traub
E. C. Eylenberg		C. E. Wiebke

THE BOARD OF DEACONS

Frank Archbold	Forrest Gibson	F. D. Longsworth
Maurice Archbold	Dale Houts	Gilbert Moorman
W. J. Coen	Harold Kiel	Donald O'Brien
Carl Crapser	Oscar Lagerstrom	David Slater, President
Ray Fisher	Emmet Krohne	John Young, Treasurer

The Deaconesses

Miss Madge Brown, Sec'y Mrs. John Doswell Mrs. Frank Walker

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Russell G. Ayers	Ernest Keppeler	Arthur E. Strang, Pres.
Elmer Flaugh	Charles Slater, Cor. Sec'y.	Herbert Beberstein
	Merrill Smith, Vice-Pres.	

THE HISTORY OF THE CHURCH

Fifty-two years ago, a small group of people of the West Side of Fort Wayne, interested in religion, gathered together under the direction of the United Brethren Church to form a non-sectarian Sunday School. For a short time, this group met in Gage's broom shop on West Main street. In 1893, a church was erected at the corner of Boone and Fry streets but apparently this venture was not successful. About this same time, several members of the First Presbyterian Church of Fort Wayne, Indiana, became interested in a religious project on the west side of the city of Fort Wayne. Such personalities as Mr. E .F. Yarnelle, Mr. E. A. K. Hackett, Dr. D. W. Moffett and the Misses Agnes, Katherine and Margaret Hamilton became sponsors of the West Side Mission of the First Presbyterian Church. Because of the splendid leadership and enthusiasm of this group, the Mission progressed and in January of 1893 the church building was purchased from the trustees of the United Brethren Church and an organization known as the West Side Mission of the First Presbyterian church came into existance.

On February 15, 1894, a meeting of the Fort Wayne Presbytery was called for the purpose of organizing a Presbyterian Church. Dr. D. W. Moffett presided at the meeting and the Rev. J. W. Boggs acted as Clerk. The new church was duly authorized and organized and given its present name of Bethany Presbyterian Church. There was a charter membership of thirty-nine new members, eleven of whom came by Letter of Transfer from the First Presbyterian Church and twenty-eight on Profession of Faith. Herein is listed the roll of Charter Members:

Those who came by Letter of Transfer:

Mr. Francis M. Smaltz
Mrs. Elizabeth Smaltz
Mr. Julius Beyerlein
Mrs. Ella Reed
Miss Nellie Reed
Mrs. Jane Laemle
Mrs. Rose V. Clark
Mrs. Laura M. Craig
Miss Susan Shuder
Mr. Henry Albert Fox
Mrs. Eliza Fox

Those who came on Profession of Faith:

Mrs. Caroline Beyerlein	Mrs. Louise Barnes
Mr. George W. Moore	Mrs. Harry Brumbaugh
Miss Blanche Vantilberg	Miss Minnie E. Reiter
Mrs. Mary Spice	Mr. Willie Moore
Mrs. Sarah Holley	Mrs. Etta Brown
Miss Eva Moore	Mr. John Wesley Flickinger
Miss Flora Beyerlein	Mrs. Lydia Short
Mr. David Laemle	Mrs. Kate Potter
Mrs. Libbie Hutchinson	Mr. Charles Albert Barnes
Mr. John M. Jackson	Mr. George Maughan
Mrs. Rebecca Jackson	Mrs. Jennie Maughen
Mr. Edward Rarig	Mr. James Craig
Mr. Fred Witzigreuter	Mr. Gideon Short

Rev. George E. Davies was called and ordained as the first pastor of Bethany Church in June, 1894. In July of 1895, the congregation met and voted to erect a new edifice. Through the generosity of Mr. Yarnelle, Mrs. J. H. Bass, the Misses Hamilton and many others including our own Board of Church Erection which made a grant of $1,000, the new building was dedicated in March of 1896. Rev. Davies resigned the pastorate in January, 1899 and a Rev. Mr. Bodell supplied the pulpit for a period approximating a year. The Rev. John C. Breckenridge was then called as pastor of the church and was installed April 23, 1900. This pastoral relationship was dissolved August 24, 1903. He was succeeded by the Rev. Dubois H. Loux who was installed January 15, 1904 and resigned on November 20th of this same year to take up work as secretary of the Christian Endeavor Society.

June 13, 1905, the Rev. James Campbell was installed as pastor and he served until his death in 1907. The Rev. J. A. Daly was installed in 1908 and served until March 5, 1909. After his brief pastorate, Dr. Charles O. Shirey was called and installed as pastor of this church on October 10, 1909.

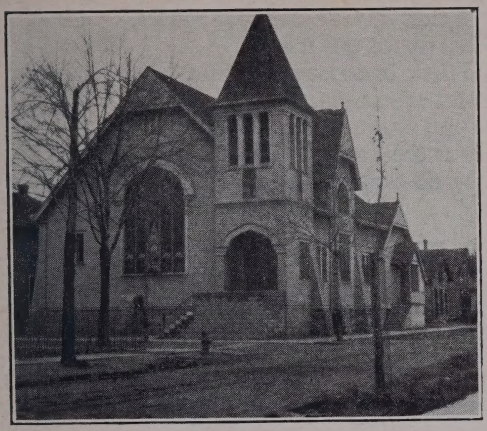
It was during the pastorate of Dr. Charles O. Shirey that Bethany church grew into the present large congregation. Through his arduous and kindly ministering the foundations of the church finally seemed to be on solid rock. Dr. Shirey had the distinction of serving as pastor of this congregation for twenty-nine years, until his retirement in 1938, when he became Pastor Emeritus of the congregation. It was during his distinguished period of service that Bethany church advanced into the ranks of the largest denominational church in our Presbytery.

Sunday School work was stressed and the results of his consecrated efforts, joined with the able assistance of his good wife, Rose Shirey, have left an indelible mark in the life of this church. In the year 1921, the building was remodeled and a new annex added which gave a new impetus to the important community work being done in this area. Many honors came to Dr. Shirey during his long and fruitful pastorate. In June, 1917, he received the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity from Hanover College, from which he had been graduated. He also acted as Moderator of the Fort Wayne Presbytery on several occasions and had the privilege of serving as Moderator of the Synod of Indiana, but it was as pastor of the local church where Dr. Shirey made his greatest contribution to the causes of Christ and His Kingdom. Because of the failing health of Dr. Shirey, the Rev. Robert Faust Sheaffer was called as Associate Pastor in March of 1936. Two years later, upon the resignation of Dr. Shirey, the Rev. Mr. Sheaffer assumed the role of pastor of the church.

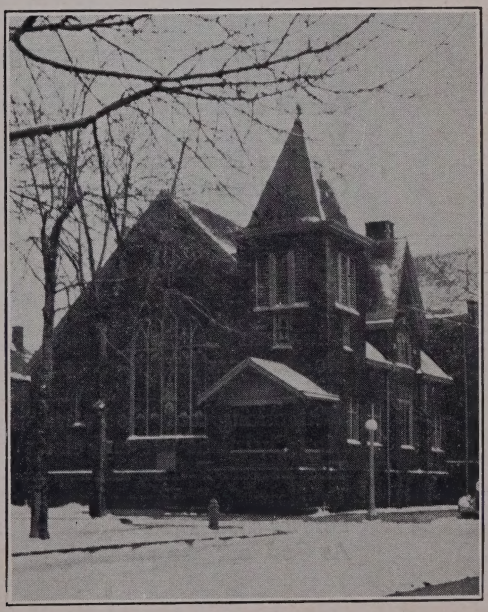
On December 7, 1941, Mrs. Shirey was present in the morning Hour of Worship to present in honor of their Golden Wedding Anniversary, a deed of their home at 1705 Illinois street to be used after their passing as a church parsonage. Dr. Shirey died December 29, 1941, followed in death by his beloved wife January 2, 1942. On October 4th, dedicatory services were held at the Manse which had been newly renovated and decorated.

There are many names too numerous to mention who have aided substantially in making the history of this church so rich. It is a pleasure to recount the inspiration and the sacrifice of these unnamed saints who have toiled and labored for the enrichment of God's Word and God's Will. It would be unfair not to mention three names of members of this church who have gone into full-time Christian Service. It is with honor we call again your attention to Miss Treva Marshall who serves in the Women's Medical School in far-off India; the Rev. Homer Weisbecker, formerly a missionary in Thailand, now pastor of the First Presbyterian church of Sullivan, Indiana; and the Rev. Robert S. Moorhead serving as supply pastor of the First Presbyterian church of Vincennes, Indiana.

This year of 1944 marks the 50th year of the rich history of Bethany church. At this time the membership which started with 39 members has grown to a membership of 1,004 members. 175 of the boys of our congregation and Sunday School are at present serving with the armed forces of the United States. In this year, we shall celebrate the burning of a mortgage which symbolizes not only the end of one era but the beginning of another. In this hour of crisis with a world at war, it is the hope of each of us that the Church may continue to preach the everlasting truth, "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and today, and forever."



The Original
Structure of
Bethany Church
1896



The Remodeled
Structure and
New Annex of
Bethany Church
1921

A HYMN FOR BETHANY CHURCH

Through ageless cycles moves our sphere,
A boundless space traversing.
With God there is no hour, no year,
No temporal rehearsing.
The light and dark are one.
The eve is as the dawn.
God knows no night, no day.
His strength abides alway.
Our God is the Eternal.

Although a human flesh we wear,
Immortal songs are raising
A joyous psalm in chant and prayer,
Hear Thou, O God, our praising.
We thank Thee for Thy grace
That led us to this place,
This Church — a living Word
With truth and service gird.
Our God is the Eternal.

For all those lives whose strength has been
These stately portals building,
For all the loyal friends and kin
Whose faith has been unyielding,
We give Thee thanks this day.
O may their power stay
Within these sacred halls.
Their strength within these walls
Shall be, O God, eternal.

And when our songs, O God, are stilled,
No more our prayers ascending,
Still may Thy earthly church be filled
With strong souls God-ward wending.
May Christians rise and claim
The power of Thy name.
Thy love shall never wane.
Forever shalt Thou reign
As God, our King Eternal.

These words have been written by the Rev. Mr. Sheaffer. Music for the hymn has been written by Miss Luella Feiertag.

VICTORIA BOOTH DEMAREST

Bethany Church is most happy to have Mrs. Demarest as our distinguished guest speaker during the week of our celebration. We know she will bring a great revival of spirit to Bethany Church in this Anniversary Year.

THE PROGRAM OF ANNIVERSARY

Bethany Church is very proud in bringing to Fort Wayne for the week of celebration, the noted speaker, Victoria Booth Demarest. She will be present at each meeting of our anniversary to share her rich spiritual experiences with us. Below is listed a resume of the schedule of meetings:

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 8:00 P.M. The Opening of our Celebration. Each Church Officer will aid in the sponsoring of this meeting. The Choir will be present to bring us a message through music.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 6:00 P.M The Young People's Dinner. Every young person of our Sunday School and Church is invited to come to this "carry-in" dinner. Music by Adda and Wally Beer.

8:00 P.M Young People's Evening. The youth of our church will aid in the Order of Worship this evening. There will be special music by Charlene Brown and a duet by Marjorie O'Neil and Donald Longsworth. This meeting is for adults as well as young people.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 8:00 P.M. Homecoming Night. This service will have a special appeal to all who were former members of our church or those who have been inactive within the last several years. The Choir again will be present to sing.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 8:00 P.M. Women's Night. The services for this evening will be exclusively for women and girls over fourteen years of age. Mrs. Demarest will deliver her world-renowned lecture on "Love and Marriage". The women of all Presbyterian Churches in Fort Wayne have been invited to be in attendance. A Women's Chorus will furnish the music for the evening.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 9:30 A.M. The Sunday School Hour. 10:45 A.M. The Hour of Divine Worship. At this service when Mrs. Demarest will preach, there will also be observed the important event of the burning of the mortgage. Mrs.

Albert Hunt will be our soloist for the morning service and the Choir will be present to sing.

4:30 P.M. The Hour of Vesper. The Choir will present a recital of fine religious music and Mrs. Demarest will bring a brief meditation.

5:30 P.M. A Tea and Reception will be held in the upstairs rooms honoring Mrs. Demarest. Instrumental music will be furnished by Mrs. N. A. Rockey, Mrs. Samuel Cleland, Mrs. Ralph Bromelmeier and Miss Luella Feiertag.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 8:00 P.M. Community and Presbytery Night. Greetings will be brought to us by community leaders and church leaders. Presbytery officers and Presbyterial Officers have been invited. Dr. George William Allison, Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church; Rev. Andrew Lowry, President of the Fort Wayne Ministerial Association, and Adjutant Orchard of the Salvation Army, will all be present to extend their greetings. The large Training Choir of North Side High School, under the direction of Varner Chance, will be present to assist in the service.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 6:30 P.M. The Anniversary Dinner. The dinner is limited to two hundred and fifty guests, so early reservations are in order. Tickets may be purchased from any member of the Women's Committee or at the Church Office for one dollar each. The Baker Sisters Trio will present dinner music throughout the Anniversary Dinner.

8:00 P.M. The Closing Service, when Mrs. Demarest will bring us her final message. The sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be observed, a dedication of our anniversary gifts will be made and new members will be received into the church.

An historical exhibit has been prepared on the South Side of the Young People's Department rooms. Many pictures and records of the church are in evidence. This exhibit will be open throughout the entire week of Celebration and you are most cordially invited to visit it.

THE ANNIVERSARY GIFTS

THE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

The Furnishing of the Women's Lounge Room

The New Stove for the Kitchen.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS OF MRS. WALKER

The Candlelabra for the Sanctuary

The New Chandelier for the Women's Lounge.

THE BETHANY YOUNG MEN'S CLASS

One Hundred and Twenty-five Dollars to be used for the installing of a new electric bulletin board for the front of our Church. This will be purchased as soon as priorities can be obtained.

THE BETHANY GUILD

The Floor Lamp for the Women's Lounge

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS OF MRS. STOUFFER

The Mirror for the Women's Lounge.

THE MARTHA CLASS

The Complete Furnishings for the New Choir Room.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE (The Young People's Department, The Christian Endeavor Society and the Westminster Fellowship)

The New Pulpit Chairs.

THE BOARD OF DEACONS

The Registration Desk, Chair and Desk Furnishings.

REV. ROBERT FAUST SHEAFFER

The Table Lamps for the Women's Lounge.

THE PRIMARY DEPARTMENT OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

THE ARCTURUS CLASS

THE JUNIOR DEPARTMENT OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

MRS. GLEN BOATMAN

MRS. JOHN HOLLE

Gifts of Cash to help in refurnishing the Men's Lounge.

Many other individuals and groups have participated in many ways to make this anniversary possible. We are grateful for all who aided in ridding the church of its mortgage, of those who gave of time and money in helping to clean our church in preparation for this glad event. All of these gifts, we are certain, have found favor with Him whose Name we cherish.

THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

Russell G. Ayres, General Chairman

J. O. Brown, Co-Chairman

Publicity and Promotion
Dwight Shirey, Chairman
Wallace Beer, Co-Chairman
Betty Ann Meisner
Rev. Robert Faust Sheaffer
Mrs. Frank Walker
Charles Slater
Mary Ellen Willy

Program
David Slater, Chairman
Mrs. John Holle
Mrs. Alan Muller
Mrs. Glen Boatman
Clarence Hanson

Homecoming
Arthur Strang, Chairman
J. O. Brown
Mrs. Otto Fultz
Miss Ethel Beyerlein
Mrs. Harry Masters
Miss Evelyn Strupp
C. O. Reynolds
William Miller

History
Vane Boone, Chairman
Mrs. A. D. Hodell
Fon Platt
Chester Young
Miss Mae Lansdown
Miss Betty Boone

Hospitality
Mrs. Howard Essex, Chairman
Mrs. Jess Lipkey
Mrs. Mary Leonard
Mrs. John Stabler
Clarence Wiebke
Merrill Smith

Decorations
Glenn Ellenwood, Chairman
Mrs. S. E. Williamson
Mrs. Charles Lee
John Doswell
Leon Johns

Women's Activities
Mrs. Ernest Keppeler, Chairman
Mrs. Charles Stauffer
Mrs. John Muller
Mrs. Howard Mansfield
Mrs. Lonnie Stouffer

Men's Activities
S. C. Moorhead, Chairman
John Young
Oscar Allen
Harry McMillen
Russell Frey
Floyd Smith

Youth Activities
Alan Muller, Chairman
Martha Jane Miller, Co-Chair.
Marjorie O'Neil
Robert Hodell
Alice Moorman
Mrs. Guy Johnson
Mrs. Charles Gephart
Mrs. Ray Fisher

Presbytery and Presbyterial
Rev. Robert Faust Sheaffer, Chairman
S. C. Moorhead
Mrs. Ray Fisher

Music
Mrs. Ralph Bromelmeier, Chairman
E. C. Eylenberg
Mrs. Albert Hunt
Donald Longsworth
Mrs. Everett Cary

Finance
Russell G. Ayres, Chairman
Wallace Beer
Mrs. John Fosler
Mrs. Frank Cooper
S. C. Moorhead

Anniversary Gifts
Mrs. Frank Walker, Chairman
Ernest Keppeler
Mrs. R. F. Roebel
Barbara Mansfield
Forrest Gibson